Privatisation of rural development sector

2970. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMA CHANDRAYYA:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that keeping in view the failure of States to provide even minimum facilities for State Institutes of Rural Development when 100% recurring Central grant was available, Government proposes to privatise rural development sector;

(b) if so, whether States have been sounded in this regard;

(c) what is their response; and

(d) the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M. K. PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Discussion in the WTO meet

2971. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the discussions in the WTO, so far, in regard to the textiles;

(b) whether the same proved beneficial or detrimental to our textile industries;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) who are our international partners in the field of textiles;

(e) whether any agreement has been signed with those partners; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) to (c) Doha Ministerial Conference mandated an examination by the WTO's Council for Trade in Goods of two implementation proposals relating to the Agreement on Taxtiles and Clothing (ATC) for recommending appropriate action by 31st July, 2002. The first

proposal related to calculating the quota levels for small suppliers for the remaining years of the ATC using the most favourable methodology available in respect of those members under the growth on growth provisions. Acceptance of the second implementation tirets required members to calculate the quota levels for the remaining years of the Agreement as if implementation of growth on growth provision for the third stage had been advanced to 1st January 2000 instead of 1st January 2002 could lead to an increased market access for our textiles and clothing products. India, had coordinated its position on the implementation issue on "growth-on-growth" with certain other textile exporting countries, including the ITCB member countries, and sought a satisfactory resolution of this issue. This was however strongly opposed by the United States and certain other restraining countries. The issue could therefore not be successfully resolved by 31st July, 2002. India has raised the issue of non-adherence to the deadline on this implementation issue as mandated by the Doha Ministerial Conference at the WTO and various bilateral meetings with major trading countries.

(d) The USA, EU Member States, U.A.E., Japan, Saudi Arabia, Canada, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Australia, etc. are the major international partners of our textile goods.

(e) and (f) Till December 31, 1994, the exports of textiles to certain developed countries (*i.e.* US; member countries of EU; Canada) had been governed by bilateral textile agreements entered into between India and these countries under the aegis of the Multi-Fibre Arrangement (MFA), outside the rules of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). With effect from January 1, 1995, the quantitative restrictions (import quotas) in the bilateral agreements under the MFA, are being governed by the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC) contained in the Final Act of the Uruguay Round negotiations of the GATT. Presently, our textiles and clothing items face restraints in USA, European Union and Canada. As per ATC, the textile quotas would be phased out and textile sector fully integrated into WTO by 1st January, 2005.

Export of textiles to developed countries

2972. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has drawn up a plan to open up in a big way the textile exports to developed countries;